

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 W

-----101038Z 121630 /10

O R 101000Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2863

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USIA WASHDC

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UR, OEXC

SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS/PERFORMING ARTS: NITTY GRITTY
DIRT BAND

REF: (A) 76 MOSCOW 18890, (B) 76 STATE 289599, (C) STATE 000082

(D) HESS/CARSTONES TELECON 5 JAN 77

1. SUMMARY. IN JANUARY 7 MEETING WITH GOSK CONCERT DEPUTY DIRECTOR USTIN, EMBOFF SUCCEEDED GETTING GOSK'S AGREEMENT RE-REVIEW NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND (NGDB) IN EARLIEST POSSIBLE PERFORMANCE, WITH GOSK STAFFERS NOW IN U.S. FORMING PANEL FOR THIS PURPOSE. IN LONG DISCUSSION HOW MISUNDERSTANDING ON GOSK'S ACCEPTANCE NGDB OCCURRED, IT BECAME CLEAR GOSK'S NOVEMBER EVALUATION CONDUCTED BY "CONSERVATIVE" STAFFER THEN IN STATES, THAT YELISEYEV DID NOT, REPEAT NOT, ATTEND GROUP'S PERFORMANCE, THAT HE BROUGHT BACK A QUALIFIED JUDGMENT ON THE GROUP'S ACCEPTABILITY, WHICH USTIN INTERPRETED AS APPROVAL. THOUGH YELISEYEV NOW (5 JANUARY) SAYS NGDB HAD BEEN JUDGED UNACCEPTABLE, GOSK WILL ACCEPT EMBASSY'S LETTER SUGGESTING RE-REVIEW GROUP'S SHOW, ON GROUNDS IT HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY
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CHANGED SINCE NOVEMBER GOSK REVIEW.

2. ON 30 NOVEMBER GOSK ACCEPTED NGDB (REF A). DEPUTY DIRECTOR USTING TOLD EMBOFF THAT IN 29 NOVEMBER GOSK STAFF MEETING DEPUTY DIRECTOR YELISEYEV HAD MENTIONED REVIEW OF NGDB IN U.S. AND SAID IT ACCEPTABLE. USTING REQUESTED TOUR DETAILS ASAP AND DATES FOR FIRST HALF

OF 1977. (MAIN TOPIC OF 30 NOVEMBER MEETING WAS CRITICISM OF GOSK FAILURE TO ARRANGE TIMELY REVIEW OF PAGES, WITH EMBOFF DRAWING ON REF B).

3. ON 5 JANUARY (ACTING ON REF B) EMB REQUESTED MEETING ON NGDB DATES. GOSK CHIEF AMERICAN SECTION L.V. NETTO TOOK TELEPHONE REQUEST AND AFTER ONE HOUR CALLED BACK WITH INFORMATION THAT NGDB NOT ACCEPTABLE TO GOSK. NETTO EXPLAINED THAT YELISEYEV HAD BEEN ON LEAVE 30 NOVEMBER- 3 JANUARY, BUT WHEN APPROACHED 5 JANUARY SAID GOSK REVIEWER IN U.S. HAD FOUND GROUP UNACCEPTABLE. WHEN ASKED WHY USTIN HAD TOLD EMBOFF THAT NGDB APPROVED, SHE REPLIED THAT USTIN SAID HE DID NOT EVEN REMEMBER 30 NOVEMBER MEETING. EMBOFF REQUESTED FIRST POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT WITH USTIN, YELISEYEV OR SUPAGIN.

4. IN 5 JANUARY HESS/CARSTONES TELECON CU/ARTS WAS BRIEFED ON SITUATION, AND HESS REQUESTED NGDB PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE FOR POSSIBLE SECOND REVIEW BY GOSK AND ASKED CARSTONES OF EXTENT TO WHICH DEPARTMENT WILLING TO RETALIATE IN EVENT NGDB FINALLY REJECTED.

5. AT 7 JANUARY MEETING WITH USTIN AND NETTO, USTIN TOLD EMBOFF HE DID NOT REMEMBER 30 NOVEMBER MEETING. EMBOFF QUOTED FROM EXTENSIVE NOTES AND THOUGH USTIN RESPONDED "OH, THAT MEETING", HE MAINTAINED HE DID NOT REMEMBER DISCUSSING NGDB. NETTO LEFT NEGOTIATIONS ON OTHER BUSINESS FOR SHORT PERIOD DURING WHICH USTIN CONFIEED "I MIGHT HAVE MISTAKENLY LED YOU TO BELIEVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NGDB ACCEPTED, BUT NOT ONLY DO I NOT REMEMBER IT, I WILL NEVER REMEMBER IT." COMMENT: EMBOFF BELIEVES USTIN PROBABLY HEARD YELISEYEV'S SECOND HAND-DESCRIPTION OF NGDB IN 29 NOVEMBER GOSK STAFF MEETING AND MISTOOK IT AS ACCEPTANCE THUS MAKING ERROR OF 30 NOVEMBER. 7 JANUARY MEETING CHARACTERIZED BY USTIN'S GOOD-NATURED DESIRE TO RECTIFY DIFFICULT SITUATION FOR WHICH HE IMPLICITLY ACCEPTED RESPONSIBILITY.

6. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT NGDB HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL, TOP QUALITY AND VERY REPRESENTATIVE OF TYPICALLY AMERICAN GENRE, AND GOSK REJECTION SEEMED NOT SIMPLY OF A PAG, BUT OF WHOLE AMERICAN GENRE, AND THUS WAS CONTRARY TO WHOLE CONCEPT OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE. USTIN RESPONDED (AGAIN WITH NETTO ABSENT) THAT LESHANOV, THE GOSK REVIEWER OF NGDB, WAS VERY CONSERVATIVE.

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 W
-----101048Z 121775 /15

O R 101000Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2864
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
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7. EMBOFF PROPOSED THAT ADDITION OF FEMALE VOCALIST (REF C) PROVIDED GROUND FOR NEW REVIEW OF GROUP. USTIN AGREED. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT REVIEWER NOT BE AS CONSERVATIVE AS LESHANOV. USTIN SAID BY EXPERIENCE AND RANK, LOGICAL REVIEWER WILL BE NADYEZHDA KAZATSEVA, MANAGER OF CURRENT OSIPOV TOUR OF U.S. (CAMI). HE DESCRIBED HER AS FAVORITE OF FORMER MINISTER OF CULTURE FURTSEVA, ABOUT 60 YEARS OLD AND CONSERVATIVE. NETTO, ON OTHER HAND, CHARACTERIZED KAZATSEVA AS VERY MODERN IN HER THINKING. USTIN SUGGESTED PANEL BE FORMED TO GET AROUND POSSIBLE KAZATSEVA CONSERVATISM. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS TO BE VICTOR SAKOVICH, CULTURAL COUNSELOR, SOVIET EMBASSY WASHINGTON, AND GOSK STAFFER NATASHA IVANOVA, NOW ALSO TOURING WITH OSIPOV GROUP AND WHO WAS EXTREMELY HELPFUL ON ACT AND ROY CLARK TOURS IN SOVIET UNION.

8. USTIN ASKED EMBOFF TO SEND OFFICIAL LETTER TO GOSK ON 10 JANUARY EXPLAINING NEW COMPOSITION OF NGDB AND REQUESTING ANOTHER REVIEW. GOSK WOULD THEN ACKNOWLEDGE TO EMBASSY RECEIPT OF ITS LETTER AND INFORM THAT IT WOULD BE TELEPHONING KAZATSEVA, IVANOVA AND SAKOVICH WITH REQUEST THEY REVIEW NGDB AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. EMB WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT BY COB JANUARY 11 OF GOSK'S REACTION TO LETTER AGREED UPON,
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AS ABOVE. IF AS PREDICTED BY USTIN, WOULD ASK
DEPARTMENT LEARN NGDB PERFORMANCE DATES AND ARRANGE

REVIEW DATE WITH SAKOVICH.

9. USTIN OPINED THIS PROCEDURE WOULD RESULT IN
ACCEPTANCE NGDB. EMB NOT COMPLETELY CONVINCED BUT
NOTES DISCUSSION OF CONSERVATIVE/LIBERAL LEANING
OF GOSK REVIEWERS AS NEW DEVELOPMENT AND POSSIBLE
PATY TO INCREASE ACCEPTANCE OF NEW PAG GENRES FOR
SOVIET UNION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3633223
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: SCUL, OEXC, UR, US, NITTY GRITTY DIRT BAND
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c9f3b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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